

Whitelake

Risca Urban District Council.



Medical Officer's &
Sanitary Inspector's

Annual Reports

**For the Year
1937.**

RISCA :
Risca Printing Works.
1938.



Risca Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE Medical Officer of Health

For the year ending 31st December, 1937.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
RISCA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for your District. This Report is compiled according to instructions contained in Circular 1650 (Wales).

Section A.—Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area of the District (in acres)	4,195
Population (Census 1931)	16,605
Estimated (1937)	14,990
Population, 1934	16,180
Population, 1935	15,920
Population, 1936	15,570

Number of Inhabited Houses.—The number of Inhabited houses (end of 1937) is 3,369.

Rateable Value, £51,744.

Sum represented by one penny rate, £180 (estimated).

Social Conditions.—The chief industries carried on in this area are coal-mining and its subsidiary industries, also steel and tin-plate manufacturing. There are also several stone quarries and brick works. These industries do not have any particular influence on public health.

The By-product Plant at Risca Colliery is shut down and also the Tinplate Department at Pontymister.

Extent of Unemployment.—The state of unemployment during the year was as follows:—

No. unemployed in January, 1936	Men	Women	Boys	Girls
	2,019	74	121	82
Total	2,396			
No. unemployed in December, 1936	Men	Women	Boys	Girls
	1,670	86	59	84
Total	1,899			
Average No. unemployed per month for 1936	Men	Women	Boys	Girls
	2,234	70	117	88
Total	2,509			

These figures were obtained from a total insured population of 5,200.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total	Males	Females
Live Births	218	111	107
Legitimate	207	106	101
Illegitimate	11	5	6
Still Births—			
Legitimate	14	7	7
Illegitimate	3	1	2
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	14.5		
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population for 1936 	15.1		
The Birth Rate for England and Wales 	14.9		
The Birth Rate for Monmouthshire was 	15.5		
	Total	Males	Females
Deaths 190	121	69	
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	12.6		
The adjusted Death Rate was 	14.8		
Deaths from Puerperal Causes—			
Death Rate per 1,000 total births 	9.0		
Puerperal Sepsis 	0		
Other Puerperal Causes 	2		
The Maternal Mortality for England and Wales was 	3.32		

Infant Mortality.

	Total	Males	Females
Death of Infants under 1 year ...	7	3	4
Legitimate	7	3	4
Illegitimate	0	0	0

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age—	
All infants per 1,000 live births	27.6
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ..	0
Death from Measles (all ages)	2
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1
Death Rate for England and Wales was	12.4
Death Rate for County of Monmouth	12.6
Infant Death Rate for England and Wales was	— 58.
Infant Death Rate for County of Monmouth	63.9

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Typhoid —	Other Circulatory ...	6
Measles 2	Bronchitis	9
Scarlet Fever —	Pneumonia	5
Whooping Cough —	Other Respiratory ..	2
Diphtheria —	Septic Ulcer	5
Influenza 7	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1
Encephalitis Lethargica .. —	Appendicitis	—
Cerebro Spino Fever —	Cirrhosis of the Liver ...	—
Respiratory Tuberculosis .. 10	Other Liver Diseases ...	1
Other Tuberculosis 5	Other Digestive Diseases	4
Syphilis —	Nephritis	8
General Paralysis of the	Puerperal Sepsis	—
Insane 1	Other Puerperal	2
Cancer 21	Congenital Causes	6
Diabetes 2	Senility	9
Cerebral Haemorrhage ... 15	Suicide	—
Heart Disease 42	Other Violence	6
Anaeurism —	Other Causes	21
Polioprytitis 1		

Death of Children under 1 year.

Under 1 week	3
1-2 weeks	1
2-3 weeks	—
3-4 weeks	—
	—
Total under 1 month	4

1-3 months	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
3-6 months	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
6-9 months	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
9-12 months	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
- 12 Months.									
Total under 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Total from 0-1 year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7

There were no special causes of sickness during the year which need reporting upon. The general conditions of health were good, also conditions of environment, etc.

Considering the amount of unemployment in the district during the year the health and physique of children and adults has been on the whole well maintained.

SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. Public Health Officers of the Authority.

Part-time Medical Officers of Health and a whole time Sanitary Inspector who acts as Foods Inspector.

2.—There are no changes in the services provided under the following heads:—

(a) Laboratory Facilities.

(b) Ambulance Facilities.

The St. John Ambulance is available for accidents and sickness to which a number of the population contribute a small weekly fee.

There are also two private ambulances in the district for hire.

(c) Nursing in the Home.

There is a very efficient voluntary Nursing Association in the Area which employs three district nurses.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres.

These are available and controlled by the Monmouthshire County Council.

The hospitals used are the Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport, Cardiff Royal Infirmary and the Hospitals controlled by the Monmouthshire County Council Public Assistance Committee.

(e) Hospitals, Public and Voluntary.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1.—Water.

The particulars of water supplies has not materially altered. Where new houses are being built under the Housing Schemes these are to be connected up with the existing mains. The supply during the year has been satisfactory (a) in quantity; (b) in quality on the whole has been good, but during the year for a period a certain amount of deposit was getting into the main in the lower part of the area. However, this has been remedied.

Samples of the water have been examined chemically and bacteriologically and have been found to be satisfactory.

2.—Drains and Sewerage.

For particulars under this head see Sanitary Inspector's report.

3.—Rivers and Streams.

No action was taken to check the pollution of Rivers and Streams in the area during the year. New retaining wall has been built to prevent flooding at three points of the river bank from Crosskeys to Risca. This wall gives a better scope for carrying off coal dust, etc., which is discharged into the river.

4.—Closet Accommodation.

Particulars will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

5.—Public Cleansing.

The only change under this heading that an extra lorry has been acquired by the Council of the latest hygienic and up-to-date type.

6.—Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

I think the Sanitary Inspection of the area has been very satisfactorily performed during the year. For details see Sanitary Inspector's Report enclosed.

7.—Shops.

No special action has been taken under the Shops Act, 1934, during the year. Inspections and Supervision have been regularly made.

8.—Smoke Abatement.

No action was taken in reference to this paragraph apart from a few minor arrangements.

9.—Swimming Baths and Pools.

There is one public open-air Swimming Pool owned by the Council. This pool is used to a great extent and is conducted in a very satisfactory manner.

10.—Eradication of Bed Bugs.

The method in use for destruction of this vermin is spraying of crude gas water obtained from the Council's Gas Department.

The number of Council houses dealt with is 11, other houses 15.

When the new houses are dealt with and ready for tenancy the furniture and etc. of proposed tenants will be dealt with before removal and a special liquid sprayed (insecticide) into and over articles where necessary.

This work will be attended to by the Council's employees.

11.—Schools.

The Sanitary conditions and water supply of the schools still remain satisfactory. Visits of inspection are periodically made and any defects etc., found, reported to the Education Authority.

It was not found necessary to close the schools owing to epidemics of infectious diseases during the year.

SECTION D.

1.—Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	965
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	1,129
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ..	31
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	43
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	26
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	—

2.—Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	184
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3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:	...	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	546
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	...	531
(a) By owners	...	529
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	2
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts—		
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	—	
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—		
(a) By owners	...	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	—
(c) Proceedings under section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936—		
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	31
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	19
(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936—		
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	15
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	—

4.—Housing Act, 1936 Overcrowding.

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	97
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(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	136
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	680
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	—
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	32
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	160
(d) Particulars of any houses becoming overcrowded after first relief	...	...	...	—
(e) Plans for the erection of 174 houses are being considered for proceeding at earliest possible date under Slum Clearance and Overcrowding.				

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk Supply.—Farms and Dairies have been regularly inspected and samples of milk taken and examined for bacterial content and for tubercle bacilli, under the various Milk and Dairies Orders. For details see Sanitary's Inspector's Report.

I consider the Milk Supply of your area very satisfactory.

(b) Meats and Other Foods.—For action taken with regard to Meat and Other Foods, Slaughter Houses, etc., see Sanitary Inspector's Report.

(c) Adulteration.—No special action was taken under these Acts and Regulations.

(d) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.—Ample use is made of the facilities provided by the County Laboratory

(e) Nutrition.—No action has been taken under this Section.

SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Considerable epidemic of Scarlet Fever during the year mostly in children age 5-15. This epidemic was of a very mild type and isolation was successfully carried out in the patients' homes.

There were no cases of enteric fever or small-pox.

There were 2 cases of puerperal pyrexia.

Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases is available when required in the Newport Corporation Hospital (Isolation) and other similar hospitals in the County of Monmouth.

Maintenance charges for these cases are borne by your Council.

Influenza was conspicuously absent during the year.

Diphtheria, see chart.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

During the year ending December 31st, 1937, the following work under the above heading was done in this area.

Waunfawr Mixed School	...	...	...	92
Waunfawr Infants	...	...	...	69
Crosskeys	...	...	...	61
Danygraig Mixed	...	...	...	116
Risca Town	...	...	...	86
Risca Infants	...	...	...	64
Pontymister Boys	...	...	...	116
Pontymister Girls	...	...	...	110
Pontymister Infants	...	...	...	78

Giving a total of children treated, 792.

Pneumonia, not prevalent.

There are no facilities for nurses to attend cases of infectious diseases in the home. A scheme is under consideration by the County Council for the Isolation and treatment of infectious cases.

Investigations are made, on intimation of infectious diseases from the school authorities.

No action was taken in regard to the use of measles serum for prophylaxis or attenuation.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Premises	Inspections.	Written Notice	Prosecutions.
Factories	11	7	—
Workshops	6	4	—
Workplaces	5	4	—
Total	22	14	—

DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

	Defects Found.	Defects Remedied.	Refer to H.M.S. Insp.	Prosecutions.
Want of Cleanliness	9	9	—	—
Want of Ventilation	3	3	—	—
Want of drainage of floors	3	3	—	—
Overcrowding	2	2	—	—
Other Nuisances	5	5	—	—
Total	22	22	—	—

(a) **Cancer.**—There was still slight increase in the prevalence of Cancer. The number of deaths from this cause being 21 as against 27 last year. Full use is made for treatment, etc., under the National Radium Centre. No special investigations have been undertaken by the Council in pursuance of suggestions contained in Circular 1136 of July 31st, 1930.

(b) **Prevention of Blindness.**—It was not found necessary to take any special action under this section.

TUBERCULOSIS.

(c) **Tuberculosis.**—There is a slight improvement in the incident of Tuberculosis during the year although the deaths from this disease remain about the same.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases.					Deaths			
Age	Pulmonary		Non Pul.		Pulmonary		Non Pul.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								
1				2			1	1
5							1	
10								
15	6	2	1	2	3		1	1
20						1		
25	3	2	1		2	1		
35	1					1		
45	1					1		
55								
65	2				1			
Totals	13	4	2	4	6	4	3	2

The ratio of non-notified Tuberculosis deaths to total Tuberculosis deaths was practically nil. Where any case did occur a satisfactory explanation was received from the Medical Practitioner. The efficiency of notification of Tuberculosis in this area is still very good. There was no evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the area.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DISEASES.	Cases Notified.												Deaths.												Age Groups.						
	Under age	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 & over	TOTAL	all ages.	Under age	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 & over	TOTAL	all ages.			
Diphtheria		1	5	3	1	4	3			1			8																		
Scarlet Fever				4	4	4	3	7	7	1			121																		
Pneumonia		1		2	2	2	3	4	3	3	4	2	26			1	1		1					1	1			5			
{ Puerperal									1	1			2																		
{ Pyrexia																															
TOTALS.		2	5	5	16	50	45	11	11	6	4	2	157			1	1		1					1	1			5			

Midwives.—The number of midwives practising in the area is five.

Risca	3
Pontymister	1
Pontywain	1

Apart from the mild epidemic of Scarlet Fever which was prevalent in this and adjoining areas, I think the general health and sanitary conditions during the year 1937 were satisfactory.

Good progress has been made in the housing scheme under the Overcrowding Act, especially when one considers the difficulty in obtaining suitable sites for building new houses. The houses that have been built have been well planned and constructed and the "lay-out" and appearance of these houses are very pleasing.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

NOEL N. WADE, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health

Risca Urban District Council.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year Ending December, 1937.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE RISCA
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit herewith my Annual Report for year ending December, 31st, 1937.

INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

During the process of general inspection of district, the number of visits and revisits made for all purposes total 3,500. This figure contains calls made under overcrowding orders, demolition regulations and ordinary inspections, which include the provision of and fixing

620ft. 0in. Troughing.

416ft. 0in. Downpipes.

17 Chamber covers and frames.

25 Window frames and sashes.

46 Roof repairs.

7 Roofs new.

9 Yard Surface Drainage.

25 Chimney repairs.

3 Smoke nuisance abatement.

36 Repairs to doors and frames.

25 New doors and frames.

33 Plaster work on Ceilings.

19 Plaster work, new ceilings and partitions.

35 Drain clearing.

17 Drain Repairs.

15 Providing and fixing new lavatory pans.

21 Provision of and fixing flush tanks.

19 Repairs to flush tanks.

7 Provision of new lavatory accommodation.

9 Water service pipes repaired.

14 New floors provided.

9 floors repaired.

7 New coppers provided.
 15 Copper settings repaired.
 10 Landing rail repairs.
 12 Sash cords provided and fixed.
 16 New trapped gullies provided and fixed
 9 New kitchen fire grates.
 5 New kitchen fire grates and ovens.
 In addition many minor matters were attended to.

MILK SUPPLY.

There are 41 Milk Traders operating in your area :
 18 of whom are Producer Retailers.
 23 of whom are Retailers only.
 Five dealers are trading on a Supplementary Licence :
 3 in "Pasteurised" Milk ; and
 2 in Ordinary Supply.

Of 24 samples submitted to the County Laboratory for analysis, 22 were certified as satisfactory, in the remaining two, slight traces of Manurial pollution was detected. In each case the dealers were notified and cautioned.

In one instance the "Producer" has provided and installed a small plant for production of "Accredited Milk", which fact will help to further improve the present milk supply.

The various premises have been periodically inspected, during such visits the following matters were notified and attended to:—

Repairs to floors	...	...	...	...	...	7
Repairs to roofs	...	...	...	...	..	7
External Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	6
Removal of manure	...	...	...	...	...	5
Improved Lighting	...	...	...	...	..	4
Improved Ventilation	...	...	..	...	...	5
Internal Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cleansing and Limewashing	...	...	...	...	...	7
Rendering wall (internally)	...	...	...	...	...	5
Painting to 4ft. 0in.	..	...	...	...	...	5
Provision of plates to carry name and address of dealer	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cleansing and painting carts (for conveyance of churns)	...	...	...	...	..	2

REFUSE COLLECTION AND REMOVAL.

This department of public service is carried out by means of two motor lorries, one of which carries improved sliding cover for retention of light refuse (dust and paper) in strong winds.

The other lorry is covered by a heavy sheet for the same purpose.

In addition there is a horse-drawn vehicle operating over less populous areas, which are approached by narrow roadways.

After collection the refuse is discharged on to a tipping area known as "Danygraig Tip", and is situated in Central Ward.

Any defaulters in this section are notified and in the event of a further offence reported to the Works and General Purposes Committee with a view of treating the case as warranted.

Notices are served on persons failing to properly collect and retain their refuse. These notices convey "Days of Collection" in that particular district, and time (as near as possible), in the case of a breakdown, as must be expected these arrangements are interfered with.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

In this section of the services, 5 connections to subsidiary sewers were made, consisting of 800ft. 0in. of 4in. pipe, and 200ft. 0in. of 6in. This work was chiefly carried out in new Council Houses, New Park Road and Woodward Crescent, Crosskeys.

All drain inlets being trapped by gullies; all mains trapped by the "Windsor" type trap, carrying a clearing arm, for cleansing purposes. All necessary chambers and bent pipes duly provided and fixed.

Other provisions provided and fixed on notification of owners:—

New lavatories erected	...	...	...	...	9
New pans (lavatory) fixed	...	...	...	...	32
New roofs (lavatory) fixed	...	...	...	...	16
New tanks (lavatory) fixed	...	...	...	...	29
New doors and frames (lavatory) fixed	...	...	...	...	8
Doors repaired (lavatory)	...	...	...	...	18
(Flushing) new water services (lavatory) fixed	...	...	...	...	12
Repairs to risers (lavatory) fixed	...	...	...	...	7
New fastenings to doors (lavatory)	...	...	...	...	10
Walls repaired (lavatory)	...	...	...	...	6

FOOD INSPECTION.

Meat.

The number of animals slaughtered for food in your area :

Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	
294	174	2483	878	3829

The following was condemned and destroyed :—

Organs.	Disease.	Number
Cows Livers	Multiple Abscesses	6
Cows Head and Tongue	Aetinormyiosis	1
Cows Livers	Distomatosis	5
" " " " " "	Cavernous Angroina	3
Pigs Heads	T.B.	3
Cows Kidneys	Nephritis	3
Sheeps Livers	Distomatosis	7
" " " " " "	Pneumonia	9
Pigs Hearts	Pericarditis	3

OTHER FOODS.

Article	Weight.
Wet Fish	76 lbs.
Bottled and Canned Foods	95
Bacon	28 lbs.
Offal, etc.	237 lbs.
Fruit	79 lbs.
Miscellaneous	63 lbs.
	578

LODGING HOUSES.

There is one common Lodging House in your area, and that situated in St. Mary Street, Risca.

Periodical inspection is made and checked up.

Number and size of beds with coverings, etc., bedrooms lockers and other fittings.

General sanitation inside and out. Any defect or contravention of regulations is brought to the notice of the Manager, and his attention is given and the matter is corrected and put in order.

BAKEHOUSES.

The bakehouses of the district, with the means of transport are inspected regularly, and in the event of any default against restrictions that govern operations in this business, the matter is taken up with

the person or company responsible, and unless dealt with, and that satisfactorily, the matter reported to the Council for instructions.

The handling of bread is carefully watched, and cleanliness is the first consideration, during the operation of preparation and delivery.

Due notice is taken of the condition of machinery used in bake-houses, tin retainers for receipt of dough for pastry and bread.

The delivery of imported bread and cake is also under observation

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are eight private slaughterhouses in your area three in North Ward, three in Central Ward, and two in South Ward.

The slaughter of animals for food is carried out by means of mechanical appliances such as the Captive Bolt, Electric Tongs and others. These instruments are used to create insensibility before the operation of bleeding.

The instrument known as "The Gun" is used in this district.

This is a short arrangement similar to a revolver, and with which cartridges are fired, the cartridges are of different sizes, the larger being used on beasts or large boars or the heavier class of pigs. The lighter on porkers, sheep and lambs and calves. There is a quantity of dead meat imported both English and Foreign, from Cardiff and Newport. Practically all live animals are carried from markets in vans or other means of transport.

HOUSING.

Housing Act, 1930. Slum Clearance.

Summary of Progress.

Properties dealt with by Slum Clearance Committee for which proposals have been accepted and work executed	... ..	37
Properties dealt with by Slum Clearance Committee for which proposals have been accepted but works not carried out	... ..	22
Properties dealt with by Slum Clearance Committee and for which demolition or closing orders are made or are to be made		90
Properties yet to be considered by the Slum Clearance Committee		85

Properties added to original Schedule yet to be considered by the Slum Clearance Committee	...	...	...	...	...	7
Total						241

Summary of Operations under "Overcrowding Act, 1935".

						Over-crowded
Total Houses owned by Council	...	...	...	...	657	12
Total Houses privately owned	...	...	...	...	2712	118
Total						130
Overcrowded houses Nos. 98 to 130 being dealt with under Housing Slum Clearance Act, 1930						
	...	...	...	...		33
Total overcrowded houses to be dealt with under provisions of Housing (Overcrowding) Act, 1935						
	...	...	...	...		97
Houses required for abatement of overcrowding in Council Houses						12
Houses required for abatement of overcrowding in privately owned houses						85
						97

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ORDERS.

Particulars under this head will be found in the section of this report contributed by the Medical Officer of Health.

INSPECTION OF G.W.R. CO.'s CANAL.

This is a waterway that runs the whole length of your district.

At the present time it is not used as a channel of transport, but simply as a means of water supply to several small holdings and allotments.

It also supplies water for use on three of their stations as general cleansing and fire extinguishing emergencies.

The towpath is a favourite walk in summer time, and is much used by pedestrians.

The congested road routes are forsaken for the more pleasant conditions.

Sometimes these conditions are interfered with by deposits of carcasses, dogs, cats, etc., but, when discovered, and the caretakers are notified they are promptly removed and satisfactorily disposed of.

VAN DWELLINGS.

The creation of trouble by this class of people very rarely arise in these days.

In the event of any sojourners of this particular type making a halt they are allowed 24 hours in which to rest their horses, or effect any necessary repairs to harness or vans.

In the event of an infectious outbreak in the van or camp they would be held up until certified free from infection and disinfection completed.

RAG AND BONE DEALERS.

Special attention is paid to dealers in this business, and during the period under consideration one dealer was prosecuted, convicted, and fined £3 at Newport Police Court on Saturday, August 7th, 1937.

Yours obediently,

D. THOMAS, C.R.S.I., M.I., M.S.I.A.,

Sanitary Inspector and
Inspector of Meat and Other Foods





